(c) A committee to recommend amendments to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 was appointed by the Govt., which has since submitted its report. Necessary amendments to the existing Indian Post Offices Act will be made after the Govt. decides on the recommendations of the Post Office Act Review Committee.

STD/ISD Booths on the National Highways

3741. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of STD/ISD Booths on National Highways in the country ; and

(b) the total number of requirement of such booths and the steps taken by Government to meet the requirement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) and (b) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LIMITING THE DURATION OF LOCAL CALLS

3742. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of limiting the duration of local calls in Metros, on the traffic congestion;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the increase of total amount due to this duration limitation of local calls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) No, Sir. Many factors count towards increase or decrease of traffic and to isolate the effect only on this account is not feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Assessment is not possible. With new STD routes opening every day and business activities increasing, to isolate revenue increase, if any, on this account is not feasible.

Filling up of Posts Reserved for ST/SC

3743. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of promotions given since 1979 to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees alongwith General Employees;

(b) the number of promotions given ever since 1974 to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Officers in each grade of posts as per the 40 point promotional rosters ; and

(c) the number of posts filled by recruitments in each workman category and in each grade of officers ever since 1974 and the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates and filled therein at each level and grade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKHRAM) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House shortly.

Non Transfer of Money by Money Changer

@3744. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 30th January, 1994 that one Mr. Kingsley Anthony Fernandes, a money-changer, licensed by Reserve Bank of India fled to U.S. after cheating NRIs ;

(b) whether it is a fact that though he is a money-changer under Reserve Bank of India licence No. 276/92, he never transferred to India the money he took from unsuspecting Indian immigrant workers ;

@Previously unstarred Question 2793, transferred from the 16th March, 1994.